CLAIM AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A seed of corn variety I002573, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997.

2. (Currently amended) A corn plant of corn variety I002573, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997.

3. (Original) A plant part of the corn plant of claim 2.

4. (Original) The plant part of claim 3, further defined as pollen, an ovule or a cell.

5. (Original) A corn plant expressing all of the physiological and morphological characteristics of the corn plant of claim 2.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A method of producing a male sterile corn plant comprising introducing a nucleic acid molecule that confers male sterility into the plant of claim 2.

8. (Original) A male sterile corn plant produced by the method of claim 7.

9. (Currently amended) A tissue culture of cells of a plant of corn variety I002573, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997.

10. (Original) The tissue culture of claim 9, wherein the cells are derived from embryos, immature embryos, meristematic cells, immature tassels, microspores, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, silk, flowers, kernels, ears, cobs, husks, or stalks.

11. (Currently amended) A corn plant regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 9, wherein the corn plant is capable of expressing all of the physiological and morphological characteristics of corn variety I002573, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997.

12. (Currently amended) A process of producing corn seed, comprising crossing a first parent corn plant with a second parent corn plant, wherein one or both of the first parent corn plant or the second parent corn plant is a plant of corn variety I002573, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997, wherein seed is allowed to form.

13. (Currently amended) The process of claim 12, further defined as a process of producing hybrid corn seed, comprising crossing a plant of corn variety I002573 with a second, distinct corn plant, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997.

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein crossing comprises the steps of:

(a) planting the seeds of first and second inbred corn plants, one of which plants is said plant of corn variety I002573 and the other of which is said second, distinct corn plant;

(b) cultivating the seeds of said first and second inbred corn plants into plants that bear flowers;

(c) preventing self pollination of at least one of the first or the second inbred corn plant;

(d) allowing cross-pollination to occur between the first and second inbred corn plants; and

(e) harvesting seeds on at least one of the first or second inbred corn plants in which self pollination has been prevented, said seeds resulting from said cross-pollination.

15. (Previously presented) A corn plant produced by the method of claim 17.

16. (Previously presented) The corn plant of claim 15, wherein the transgene confers a trait selected from the group consisting of herbicide tolerance, insect resistance, disease resistance, yield enhancement, waxy starch, modified nutritional quality, decreased phytate content, modified fatty acid metabolism, modified carbohydrate metabolism, male sterility and restoration of male fertility.

17. (Currently amended) A method of producing a transgenic corn plant, comprising introducing a transgene into a plant of corn variety I002573, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997.

18. (Currently amended) A method of producing an inbred corn plant derived from the corn variety I002573, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a progeny plant derived from corn variety I002573 by crossing a plant of the corn variety I002573 with a second corn plant, wherein a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 was deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997;

(b) crossing the progeny plant with itself or a second plant to produce a seed of a progeny plant of a subsequent generation;

(c) growing a progeny plant of a subsequent generation from said seed and crossing the progeny plant of a subsequent generation with itself or a second plant; and

(d) repeating steps (b) and (c) for an additional 2-10 generations to produce an inbred corn plant derived from the corn variety I002573.

19. (Currently amended) A method of producing a conversion in the corn variety I002573 to express at least one new trait, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) crossing a first corn plant comprising a locus that confers at least one new trait, with a second plant of the corn variety I002573, a sample of the seed of the corn variety I002573 having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997, comprising the conversion that confers the new trait;

(b) harvesting and planting the seed thereby produced to produce at least one progeny plant of the first filial generation;

(c) crossing said progeny plant with a plant of the corn variety I002573 to produce seed of a subsequent filial generation, comprising the locus that confers the new trait;

(d) growing at least one progeny plant of the subsequent filial generation from the seed produced in step (c);

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) for at least one additional generation to produce a converted plant of the corn variety I002573, wherein both alleles at substantially all of the genetic loci in the converted plant consist essentially of the allele found at the same locus in corn variety I002573, the plant further comprising the locus that confers the new trait; and

(f) harvesting the seed of the converted plant.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the locus that confers the new trait was produced by genetic transformation.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the new trait is selected from the group consisting of herbicide tolerance; insect resistance; disease resistance; yield enhancement; waxy starch; modified nutritional quality; decreased phytate content, modified fatty acid metabolism, modified carbohydrate metabolism; male sterility and restoration of male fertility.

22. (Original) A converted plant of the corn variety I002573 produced by the method of claim 19.

23. (Currently amended) A hybrid corn seed one of whose parents is a plant of the corn variety I002573, a sample of the seed of said corn variety I002573 having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. [[- - - - -]]PTA-7997, and wherein the other parent is a plant of a different variety.

24. (Original) A corn plant grown from the seed of claim 23.